

SECRET

DOCUMENT Approved For Release 2002/06/11 : CIA-RDP66B00728R000200050005-8
NO CHANGE IN CLASS. ☒
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CLASS. CHANGED TO: TS S C
NEXT REVIEW DATE: 2011
AUTH: HR 70-2
DATE: 22/7/11 REVIEWER: 064540

17,800

20 May 1963

Dear Wendell,

Reference is made to my conversation with you last week regarding procure-
ment of full pressure suits for the Kedlock [redacted] Programs.
As we agreed, our mutual objective is to combine the suit buy and associated
items to obtain the most economical procurement and eliminate any unnecessary
pyramiding of contractors' costs and fees.

I am convinced that our course of action should be to buy the S-901E Full
Pressure Suits and Suit Hardware directly from David Clark. I would appreciate
your suggestion regarding the preferred method of buying the associated items;
i.e. the Survival Kits, Parachute Packs and Back Pans. I realize that these
specific items are presently obtained via Firewel but perhaps it is opportune
to explore the idea of a direct buy of these items by individual contracts to
the three respective vendors [redacted] and Firewel - in consider-
ation of the relatively large numbers involved.

The cost of a suit indoctrination program can probably be eliminated by
accomplishing the final suit test and compatibility fitting in an appropriate
USAF altitude chamber facility such as Edwards AFB.

The following table portrays my ideas in summary form.

	W (5 Vehicles)	K (3 Vehicles)	E (6 Vehicles)
Vehicle Hardware	Firewel - HF-K-8275	LAC - SB-3660(A4)	
[redacted]	7 ea - [redacted]	7 ea - [redacted]	14 ea - [redacted]
Suit S-901E	Clark	Clark	Clark
See below	10 ea	11 ea	24 ea
Suit Hardware	Clark	Clark	Clark
[redacted]	10 ea	11 ea	24 ea
Surv. Kit	10 ea	11 ea	24 ea
[redacted]			
Chute Pack	10 ea	11 ea	24 ea
[redacted]			
Back Pan (Firewel)	10 ea	11 ea	24 ea
[redacted]			
Total			
Funds Available			Not specifically budgeted - may be included in our SEAE estimate.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

1. Vehicle Hardware

25X1A

- a. [] - New on Contract HF-K-8275
- b. [] - Kelly is providing
- c. [] - Kelly to procure

25X1A

2. Suits and Suit Hardware

25X1A

- a. [] - 10 each to be procured from David Clark
- b. [] - 11 each to be procured from David Clark

25X1A

- [] has a suit ordered and delivered through []
- c. [] - 24 each to be procured from David Clark

3. Survival Kits, Chute Packs and Back Pans

25X1A

- a. [] - 10 each to match the suits
- b. [] - 11 each to match the suits
- c. [] - 24 each to match the suits

25X1A

25X1A

25X1A

25X1A

4. The costs shown are our best estimates derived from [] quote, []

[] 17 May 1962 audit, and our file information. We have used the []

25X1A estimate per suit and suit hardware for a buy of twenty-six (26) and over.

[]

My principal premise is that we should essentially accomplish the personal equipment and ships hardware buy as a direct government procurement to the individual contractors. If a one-time quantity buy from each respective vendor is not practical, then we could procure on a time-phased or sequential basis and still obtain the economy of a procurement in quantity. I would also propose that any long lead fabric or hardware items, ordered by [] on SB-3660, be transferred to credited to our new buy on the [] Programs.

25X1A

25X1A

25X1A

I shall identify suit sizes for the K Program personnel as soon as I can obtain this information from []. Also, suit distribution (size) information is attached. It might be appropriate for us or our representatives to meet with David Clark personnel in a pre-negotiation conference to discuss the approach. In lieu of this, would it be advisable for you to obtain quotes from the respective vendors for the three programs total quantities of each item? Incidentally, do specifications or other specific procurement identification data exist on these five items?

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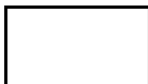
I shall appreciate your comment and/or recommended action on my ideas.

2 Atch:

1. Dick's quote
2. Size Distribution

Regards,

25X1A



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